

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW



**MANNING OF
SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES
IN CUBA**

31 OCTOBER 1962

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EVIDENCE ON POSSIBILITY CUBANS MAY BE MANNING SA-2
SAM SITES IN CUBA

1. [redacted] Cuban refugees arriving in Miami, and [redacted] all pointed up the fact the SA-2 surface-to-air missile sites in Cuba have been assembled and are being manned exclusively by Soviet personnel.

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2. The present operational status of all the identified SAM sites in Cuba together with the short period of time elapsed since the installation of this equipment began precludes any significant participation of Cuban personnel in the firing batteries, fire control elements, or support elements.

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3. Cuban personnel have been consistently reported to be excluded from SAM sites. Most reports suggest that the sole function of Cuban nationals is to provide security personnel and some support facilities.

4. Were the Cubans to man these sites, it would be expected that a special cadre of officers and technicians would be sent to the USSR for several months for initial training and then return to Cuba to train Cuban troops. There is no evidence this has been done.

a. It is estimated that a SAM firing unit can be checked out and equipped [redacted] in three or four weeks--but this time would require considerable advanced military training and classroom work. In toto, close to a year's training would be required.

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b. There has been no SAM training facility located in Cuba, and we have no evidence to suggest the existence of a Cuban SAM training program which could have produced by now the 6,000 persons required to man the 24 SAM sites now identified in Cuba.

5. It now appears that all Cuban SAM sites will all be using the most advanced model of the fire control radar associated with the widely-deployed Soviet SAM systems. As of 31 October at least 14 and possibly as

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many as 17 of the 24 SAM sites in Cuba were emitting signals of this sophisticated radar which to date has only been seen with SAM sites exclusively controlled by Soviet personnel in the USSR and East Germany.

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